

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the subject application as amended. In response to the Office Action mailed 8/7/06, Applicant is filing this amendment. Claims 1 and 3-20 are pending.

In the Office Action mailed 8/7/06, the Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Bates et al. (U.S. Patent 6,711,696; "Bates"). Applicant submits that the amended claims now distinguish over the cited Bates reference.

Amended independent claims 1, 9 and 15 now recite an interface to allow for a programmable ratio setting capability and to allow changing of the ratio. This programmable aspect as now claimed for the interface is not disclosed in Bates. Bates discloses the use of fusible links to represent the frequency of operation (see, Bates at col. 6, lines 23-28) and the primary and secondary increment values for the circuit of Figure 6 of Bates is represented by fusible links (see Bates at col. 6, lines 34-36 and lines 66-67). The fusible links, once set, are fixed. The embodiments of the invention, as now claimed, allow for the ratio to be changed through programmability and are not fixed, once set.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the amended claims overcome the Examiner's rejection based on Bates and Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the 35 U.S.C. §102(e) rejection.

Accordingly, Applicant submits that the present application is in condition for allowance and requests the Examiner to allow pending claims 1 and 3-20, as amended.

Furthermore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to amend the specification as noted above, since SCD domain 219 is not present in Figure 2.

Additionally, a new power of attorney is being submitted herewith, in order to associate this application with Customer Number 51472.

If there are any fee shortages related to this response, please charge such fee shortages to Deposit Account No. 50-2126.

Respectfully submitted,

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